

Michael
Bunce

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Tari, Alida

From: Kitteringham, Kimberley
Sent: February 10, 2010 4:02 PM
To: Tari, Alida; Carroll, Judy
Subject: Fw: Feb 16 council meeting

Sent from Blackberry.

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Bunce <bunce@utsc.utoronto.ca>
To: Kitteringham, Kimberley
Sent: Wed Feb 10 15:45:55 2010
Subject: Feb 16 council meeting

I wish to reserve an opportunity to speak at the Council meeting on February 16th. Here is a summary of my presentation:

As a Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto I have specialized in research on land use change and policy in the Toronto urban fringe for the past two decades. I was also a member of the Greenbelt Task Force and recently completed a study of farming in the region for the Neptis Foundation. I therefore have good understanding of the issues involved in this proposal and well-informed reasons for supporting it. These are:

1. The Foodbelt presents a golden opportunity for Markham to provide municipal leadership in supporting the rapidly expanding local food movement in the Toronto region. The municipality has, in successive Official Plans, identified the area in question as Class I lands to be protected for agricultural uses. Adding the special designation of Foodbelt for 25 years will not only guarantee a measure of permanence to the agricultural designation but also provide the opportunities for local food systems that many others supporting the proposal have referred to.
2. The Foodbelt would be good environmental planning because it retains open space between the Greenbelt/Rouge Park North corridors and provides an essential buffer between the urban edge and the Greenbelt boundary. I would even go so far as to argue that serious consideration should be given to adding the lands in question to the Greenbelt.
3. Designating the Foodbelt would be good urban planning, because it will hold the line against the creeping northward expansion of development in Markham that has been going on under the sanction of planning policy for years and encourage intensification within the existing urban envelope. This would be consistent both with Provincial (Places to Grow) and York Region policies.

Michael Bunce